

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 – 9:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

Public Meeting at:

AIRPORT PLAZA HOTEL
1981 TERMINAL WAY
RENO, NEVADA

A. INTRODUCTIONS. The regular meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was called to order. Roll call was taken, and quorum was determined:

Present: Sheila Allred, Mary Bryant, Diana Cannon, Sue Chambers, David Coffey, MaryAnn Demchak, David Frydman, Shirley Gaw, Ken Higbee, Joseph Holguin, Mary Ellen Horan, Will Jensen, Susan Lacey, Caroline Longre, Kate McCloskey, Kristine Minnich, Dorothy Pomin, Robin Renshaw, Ellen Richardson Adams, Tammy Rieken, Tara Shek, Carrisa Tashiro, Karen Taycher, and Rita Varney,

Absent: Pam Alvey, Angela Blair, Laura Bruni, Ann Drendel-Haas, Lisa Erquiaga, Bethany Lafferty, Brian Patchett, Tom Pierce, and Robbin Vasquez.

Staff: Marcia Calloway, Marva Cleven, Cindy Sharp, Steve Canavero and Kim Boles

Public: Nancy Kuhles, Linda Barnes, Sarah Mahler, Holly Welborn, Linda Dailey, and Samantha King

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Canavero, Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement addressed the committee about the changes happening at the Department of Education with regard to Boards, Councils, Commissions and Committees, he referenced a document that outlines the responsibilities of the officers and members as well as a description of the administrative support provided by the Department of Education. He also explained the move to have all of these entities become more consistent with the Open Meeting Law. The document that has been developed for this purpose will be shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting were reviewed and discussed. There were no other changes or corrections offered at this time.

Motion: Mary Bryant moved to approve the minutes. Kate McCloskey seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection. Shelia Allred, Robin Renshaw, Susan Lacey, MaryAnn Demchak, and Ellen Richardson Adams abstained from the vote.

D. END OF COURSE EXAMS AND SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

Cindy Sharp the Director of Assessments, Program Accountability and Nevada Academic Standards at the Department of Education shared information about Smarter Balance Assessment with the Committee. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is a bipartisan, state-led group developing assessments. Nevada is a governing state, able to vote on the assessment consortium. In the beginning, Nevada determined it was worthwhile to join the consortium to help with the smarter balance issues. Smarter Balance is state led, and provides a framework to have an aligned assessment system, also giving opportunities to have interim assessments along with formative tools. These tools are effective for teachers, these tools will assist teachers to determine day to day where their students are and whether their students are proficient or not. Currently, there are 24 or 25 other states involved, however these states have not used smarter balance yet as this is the field test year.

Here are the links for additional information:

SBAC Field Test Administration Manual can be downloaded through the SBAC website at: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources/>

Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations guidelines can be found at the following URL: http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf

Cindy Sharp presented to the SEAC information about end-of-course exams. During the last legislative session, Assembly Bill 288 revised the requirements to receive a standard high school diploma by requiring students to pass end-of-course exams (EOC), eliminating the high school proficiency exams (HSPE). Students that are enrolled in grades 10, 11, or 12 in the 2013-14 school year will still take the HSPE, students that are in the 9th grade this school year will phase into the EOC exams. The law states that students will have to pass at least four EOC exams to satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma.

You can access AB288 at this link:

http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/77th2013/Bills/AB/AB288_EN.pdf

E. EDUCATOR EVALUATION SYSTEM UNDER THE WAIVER

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

F. COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ISSUES

Marcia Calloway shared information from Assembly Bill 288 around College and Career Readiness Assessments. The Department of Education sent out a Request for Information (RFI) which resulted in seven responses. A committee was formed that includes, a State Board Member, Special Education Consultant, Assemblyman, Senator, Chancellors Office, Director of Assessments, Program Accountability & Curriculum, and representation from Washoe County and Douglas County School Districts. The Committee will read the RFIs and develop a scope of work. The Committee will submit a proposed scope of work to the State Board of Education.

G. ONE YEAR OUT SURVEY

Marva Cleven reminded the Committee that at a previous meeting they asked to get the One Year Out Report by categories. She directed them to a handout in their packets and asked them to review the document. At a future meeting she will provide the percentage of students that took the survey, as well as looking at the OSEP definitions. This information is reported in the SPP/APR Indicator 14.

H. SPP/APR 2014 SUBMISSION

Marva Cleven provided the Special Education Advisory Committee the Annual Performance Report (APR) Analysis Worksheet to go through the Part B State Annual Performance Report (APR) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 to familiarize the group with the report. The Committee had discussions about the strengths and weaknesses for the current indicators and what areas should be focused on the upcoming target setting at future SEAC meetings.

I. SSIP - NEXT STEPS

Marva shared with the Committee that the Department will be convening a task force on May 14 and 15, 2014 that will be facilitated by our WRRC. This task force will be comprised of Stakeholders from different groups. She will report information back to the Committee as it becomes available.

J. NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REVISIONS

Marva explained that a Nevada Administrative Code Task Force will be held on April 4th, 2014 that is comprised of various stakeholders from different groups. As information becomes available it will be shared with the Committee.

K. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS*

- *Teacher Licensure – Qualification for Special Education Teachers. Task Force is meeting on March 25th. Changes in Special Education teacher licensure.
- *New Accommodation form/Accommodations (smarter balance)
- *Nevada Alternate Assessment – Possible action could include a letter from the committee
- *Nevada Administrative Code Revision
- *Educator Evaluator System – Dena Durish
- *Early Childhood Education Inequities
- *Open Meeting Law presentation
- *Restructuring the Funding of Education in Nevada
- *Developmental Disabilities Eligibility
- *SSIP

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS #2

Nancy Kuhles from the Nevada Speech and Language Coalition shared three handouts with the Committee. The NSHA Coalition Information Sheet, NSHA Coalition Medicaid Information Sheet, and NSHA Coalition TSA Information Sheet.

Mary Bryant shared with the Committee information about the Path to Independence Program – they are now accepting application for the fall, you can find the application on the NCED website. She also gave the dates for the Bike to Independence activity to be held on June 23-27, 2014.

L. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion: Dorothy Pomin moved to adjourn the meeting. Diana Cannon seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion carried without objection.

The next regular SEAC meeting will be held on May 20, 2014.